

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6919

INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 4108

STATE FOR CU/EE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, RO

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM

REF: STATE 215510

1. IN CONNECTION WITHBLANDIANA CASE, EMBASSY WISHES REITERATE
NUMBER OF CONSIDERATIONS WHICH DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REEXAMINE.
FIRST, SELECTION OF BLANDIANA BY ROMANIANS, ALONG WITH POPESCU,
REPRESENTED TOP-QUALITY INVESTMENT IN IOWA PROGRAM FROM BOTH
INTERNAL LITERARY AND IDEOLOGICAL POINT OF VIEW,
ESPECIALLY SINCE THESE TWO ARE WIDELY REGARDED AS THE MOST
PROMISING ROMANIAN WRITERS OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION; DROPPING
OF BLANDIANA WOULD THUS CONSTITUTE LOSS TO U.S.-ROMANIAN
CULTURAL EXCHANGE INTERESTS OF NO SMALL DEGREE. SECOND, TENOR
OF PARA 3 REFTEL DOES NOT SEEM TO REFLECT BASIC FACT THAT
BLANDIANA'S TRANSATLANTIC TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS DICTATED NOT BY
PERSONAL PLEASURE OR CONVENIENCE BUT BY CERTIFIED MEDICAL
NECESSITY (SHE HAS UNCONTROLLABLE HEMORRHAGING AT HIGH ALTITUDES).
IF DEPARTMENT REALLY UNABLE MAKE PROVISION FOR SUCH INDISPENSABLE
TRAVEL WITHOUT LEVYING DEMAND ON HER OWN PERSONAL RESOURCES FOR
THIS PURPOSE (WHICH UNAVAILABLE IN ANY
EVENT OWING TO USUAL
HARD-CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS), EMBASSY WOULD PREFER MAKE UP
DIFFERENCE FROM P&C GOE.

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2. EMBASSY FULLY RECOGNIZES DIFFICULTIES WHICH LATE NOMINATIONS

AND SPECIAL CASES IMPOSE ON ORDERLY ADMINISTRATION IOWA PROGRAM AND APPRECIATES ENGLE'S POINT OF VIEW AS STATED PARA 1 REFTEL. WOULD NEVERTHELES HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH HE AND CU UNDERSTAND THAT IDEOLOGICAL/CULTURAL SECTOR IS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE ONE IN ROMANIA AND THAT IMPORTANT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, APPLYING WITH PARTICULAR FORCE AT PRESENT TIME, OUGHT IN OUR OPINION TO ENCOURAGE MORE FLEXIBLE AND FORTHCOMING APPROACH TO CASES OF THIS KIND DESPITE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS INVOLVED.

3. BE THAT AS IT MAY, EMBASSY VERY RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDES THAT IT WOULD BE LESS DAMAGING TO U.S. POLITICAL AND CULTURAL INTERESTS HERE IF BLANDIANA CANDIDACY WERE DROPPED FOR THIS YEAR RATHER THAN PUSHING RESTRICTIVE STIPULATIONS SET FORTH REFTEL, PARTICULARLY PARA 3. LATTER STRIKES US AS UNITIVE IN EFFECT IF NOT IN INTENT AND WOULD IN ANY CASE CAUSE US MAJOR PROBLEMS VIS-A-VIS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ROMANIAN WRITERS UNION AND OTHER ENTITIES.

4. ACCORDINGLY, AND ASSUMING DEPARTMENT CONCURS, EMBASSY PREPARED ADVISE WRITERS UNION THAT TECHNICAL AND LOGISTICAL FACTORS (INCLUDING REAL DIFFICULTY OF COORDINATING SURFACE TRAVEL AT THIS END) PRECLUDE FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF BLANDIANA FOR THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM BUT THAT EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE HER DURING 1974-75 TERM, INCLUDING PROVISION OF SPECIAL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE COURSE AT AMERICAN LIBRARY (FYI: AS WU OFFICIALS HAVE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED, CHANCES OF REVIVING NOMINATION AT LATER DATE WILL BE MOST PROBLEMATIC, ESPECIALLY SINCE THIS YEAR'S SELECTIONS WERE SUBJECT TO UNUSUALLY INTENSIVE SCRUTINY AT HIGH STATE AND PARTY LEVELS, FACT WHICH ACCOUNTED, OF COURSE, FOR NOMINATION DELAY IN THE FIRST PLACE. THERE IS, MOREOVER, NO POSSIBILITY SUBSTITUTE QUALIFIED ENGLISH-SPEAKING CANDIDATE FOR BLANDIANA AT THIS LATE DATE).

5. PLEASE ADVISE.
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